



CALIFORNIA
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY since 1871

November 14, 2013

Erik Vink
Delta Protection Commission
2101 Stone Boulevard, Suite 210
West Sacramento, CA 95691

Dear Mr. Vink:

On behalf of the California Historical Society (CHS), I am writing to express full support for the proposed Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area (NHA).

CHS is a membership-based, non-profit organization with a mission to inspire and empower people to make California's richly diverse past a meaningful part of their contemporary lives. CHS recognizes a NHA as a valuable means to support public education and awareness on the Delta's history. As conveyed in the Delta Protection Commission's *Feasibility Study for a Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area*, five themes have been proposed for the Delta NHA, which articulate the Delta's national significance and unique stories.

The CHS recognizes the Delta as a place of great historical importance. The region's story is one of a kind in regards to how humans transformed its vast wetland network into one of the most productive agricultural regions in the world from which spawned important industries, technologies and infrastructure of local, statewide, national, and international significance. Innovations such as the Sidedraft Clamshell Dredge and original Caterpillar Tractor were developed in the Delta. Unique communities such as Locke, the only town in the United States developed exclusively by and for Chinese immigrants, are found in the Delta. And the Delta is filled with levees, bridges, ferries, buildings and more, which retain historical integrity and are valuable resources of this cultural landscape.

If NHA designation occurs, CHS staff encourages DPC staff and project partners to contact CHS to discuss collaborative activities which could further highlight and promote all of the interesting and unique stories of the Delta. CHS recognizes the exciting prospect of the Delta as the first NHA in the State of California, and once again, expresses its full support for the designation. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Anthea M. Hartig, Ph. D.
Executive Director